

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☒

Property Name: Community Paint and Hardware Inventory Number: M: 35-14-7  
 Address: 7250 Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355) Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no  
 City: Bethesda Zip Code: 20814 County: Montgomery  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Washington West  
 Property Owner: not given Tax Account ID Number: C 000719  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): C 000719 Tax Map Number: Hn22  
 Project: Purple Line Transit Study Agency: Maryland Transit Administration  
 Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.  
 Preparer's Name: Sarah Traum and Courtney Clark Date Prepared: 1/4/2012  
 Documentation is presented in: MHT resource/project file

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*

Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no

Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Community Paint and Hardware building (M: 35-14-7) is a vernacular, two-story, commercial building that now houses a branch of United Bank. The building sits amidst modern development along Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355) in the heart of Bethesda's commercial district. The frame building is three bays wide and three bays deep with a one-story, shed-roof storefront across the façade. Stucco covers most of the exterior of this frame building, while the southern side elevation has stone cladding. The windows are six-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash with fixed shutters. The southernmost window on the second floor of the front façade is a paired window, while the other windows in the building are single windows. The storefront is comprised of large plate glass windows, each topped with a two-light transom. Paneled columns separate the plate glass windows. A paneled cornice with decorative brackets and dentils tops the façade. The roof is a low-pitched shed roof, sloping towards the rear of the building.

When Community Paint and Hardware was built ca. 1890 as a general store and post office, Bethesda was a small crossroads community. That same year, the Tennallytown and Rockville Railroad Company streetcar line was extended along Wisconsin Avenue and commercial and suburban development came to the area. The B&O Railroad's Georgetown Branch extended through the community in 1910, helping spur additional development (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission 1994:

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: Lacks integrity - moved

[Signature]  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

4/2/12

Date

[Signature]  
Reviewer, National Register Program

4/2/12  
Date

225-226, 233). In 1933, the Community Paint and Hardware building was purchased by the Broadhurst family and became Community Paint and Hardware (Sinclair 1986: D1). The establishment of the National Institutes of Health in 1938 and the Bethesda Naval Hospital in 1940 brought additional growth to the area, as did the arrival of a Metro-line in the late 1980s. It was the redevelopment of its original location in the 1980s that led to the closure of the hardware store in early 1986 (Sinclair 1986). In March 1988 as part of the redevelopment of its original site, the building was moved fifty feet to the south. Only the front three bays of the then-nine-bay-deep building were moved to the current location; the remaining, rear, portion of the building was demolished (Meyer 1988: B1).

Community Paint and Hardware is a typical example of a two-part commercial block building. It is two stories tall with a horizontal division in two distinct zones: the commercial space on the first floor with its plate-glass storefront and the residential space above. This building form was common in the mid-nineteenth through mid-twentieth century. In the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region in the late nineteenth century, similar two-part commercial blocks tended to be built in crossroads communities, outside the central business districts (KCI Technologies 1999: D-43). At the time Community Paint and Hardware was built, Bethesda was just a small crossroads community.

To-date, no previous documentation or Determination of Eligibility for listing (Local, State or National) has been made, recorded and/ or located for this resource. However, the building is noted and listed in Montgomery County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation and is a locally protected historic site. Based on its assessment for integrity during this survey and evaluation, the Community Paint and Hardware is significant under Criterion A as the only remaining commercial structure from Bethesda's early commercial history. Its vernacular style and small scale speak to the Bethesda's late nineteenth century history as a small, crossroads community.

Community Paint and Hardware is not known to have been associated with any individuals who are important within the history of Bethesda, with commercial development, or significant in the past in other areas, therefore it is not significant under Criterion B.

Community Paint and Hardware is significant under Criterion C as a good example of vernacular, commercial architecture. While the building has lost integrity of setting due to the surrounding modern development, this change in setting was not a result of moving the property. Community Paint and Hardware retains integrity of materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Character-defining elements present in this building include the two-part commercial block form, the larger windows of the first floor, and its vernacular style.

This building was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

The building also meets Criteria Consideration B as a moved property because it was moved a short distance from its original location and because it is the only remaining building representing Bethesda's early commercial development.

#### References cited:

Anonymous

n.d. Information on file at Maryland Historical Trust. Project/resource file for M: 35-14-7, Community Paint and Hardware, 7250 Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355), Bethesda.

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:    A    B    C    D    Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## KCI Technologies

1999 Suburbanization Historic Context and Survey Methodology: 1-495/I-95 Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Study, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland. Vol. I. Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration, Baltimore, MD.

## Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

1994 Approved and Adopted Bethesda Central District Sector Plan. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Silver Spring, MD.

## Sinclair, Molly

1986 "Hammer Falls on Bethesda Hardware Store" The Washington Post. Page D1, D7. January 26.

## Meyer, Eugene L.

1988 "Bethesda Landmark Moves Into the 20th Century" The Washington Post. Page B1, B4. March 16.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

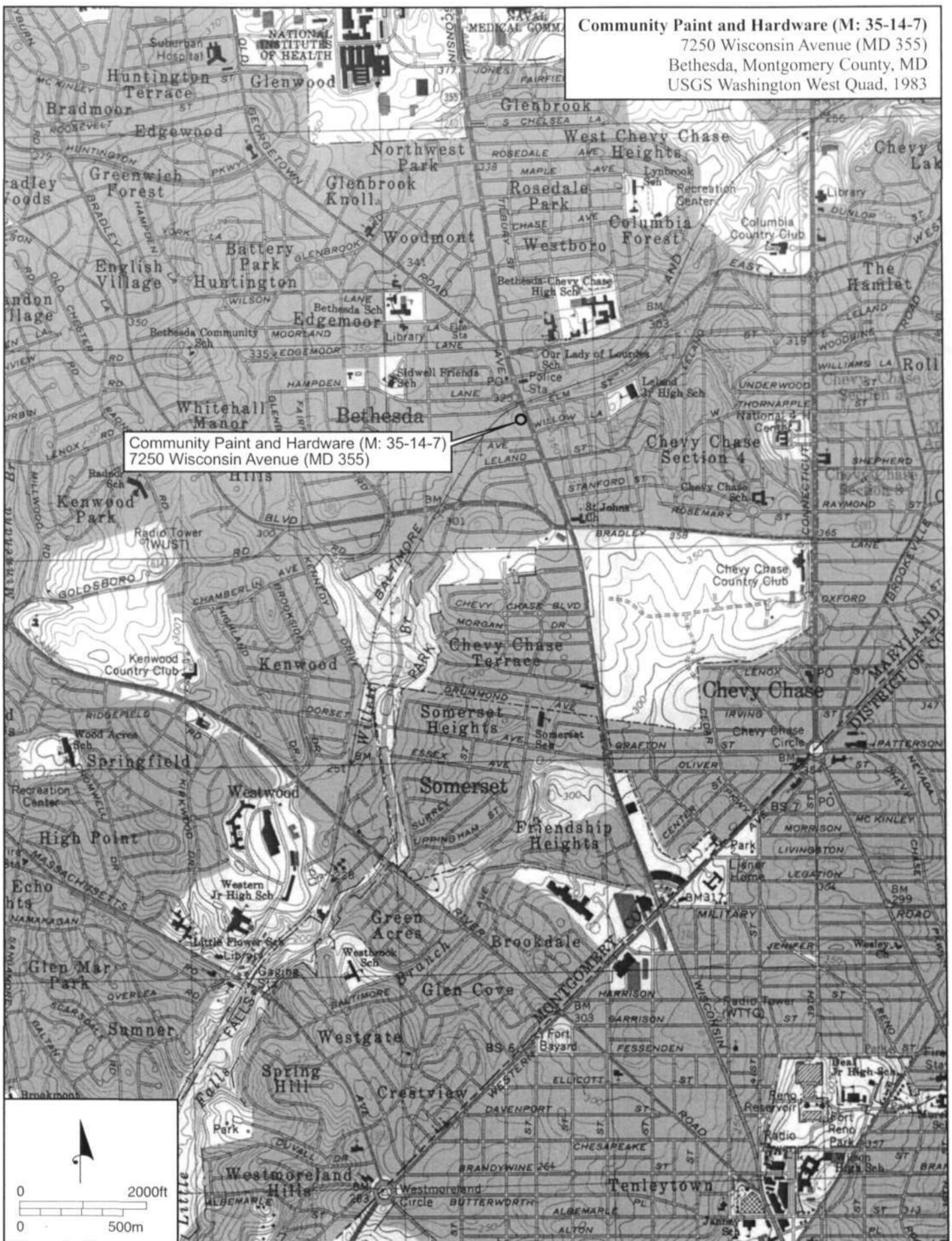
Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Community Paint and Hardware (M: 35-14-7)  
7250 Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355)  
Bethesda, Montgomery County, MD  
USGS Washington West Quad, 1983

Community Paint and Hardware (M: 35-14-7)  
7250 Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355)



Community Paint and Hardware (M: 35-14-7)  
7250 Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355)  
Bethesda, Montgomery County, MD  
Montgomery County Parcels

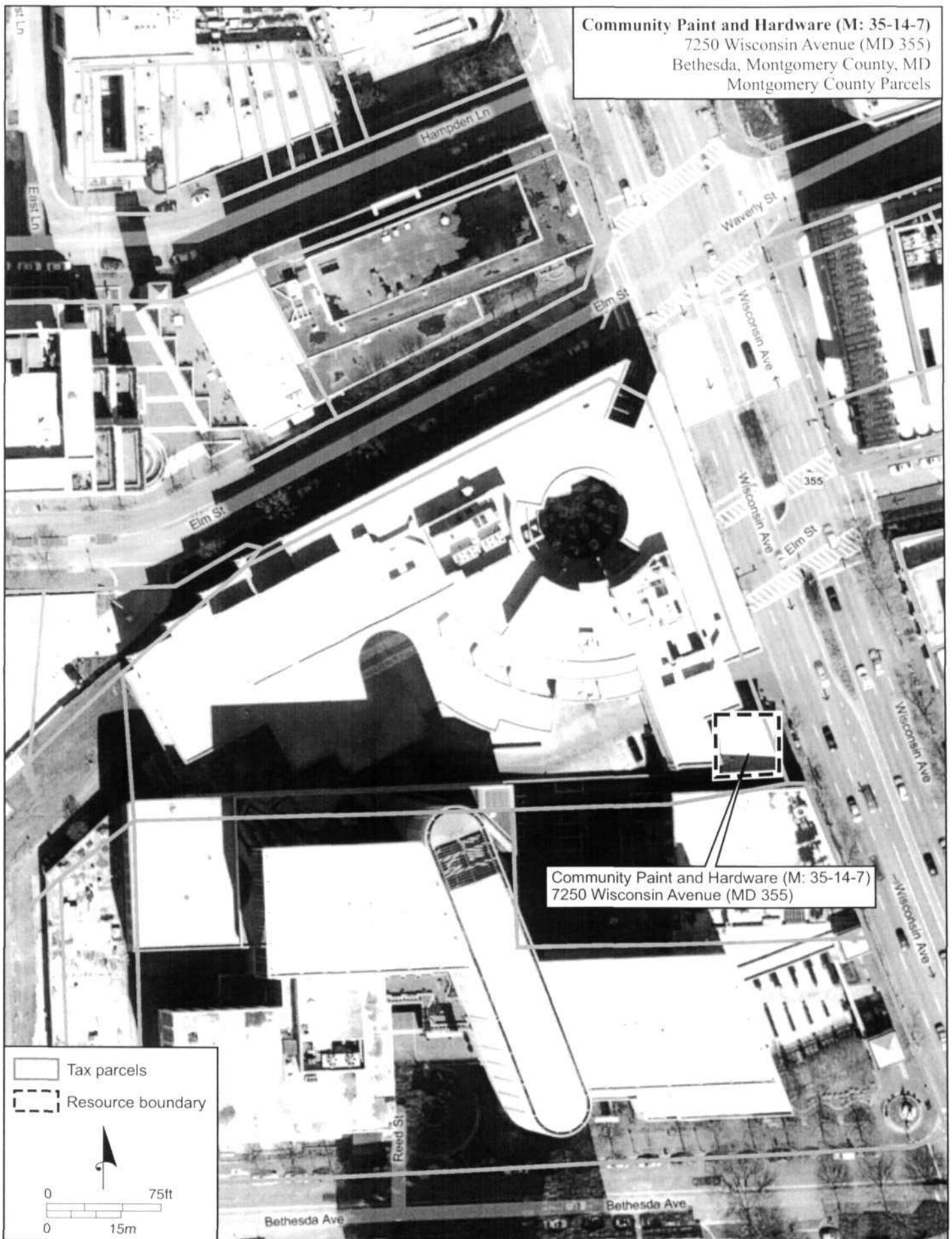


Photo Log for

**M: 35-14-7, Community Paint and Hardware**

Image File Name	Description of the view
M; 35-14-7_2011-05-25_01	Front and side elevations; view toward southwest.
M; 35-14-7_2011-05-25_02	Streetscape view toward southwest.
M; 35-14-7_2012-02-07_03	View of east and south elevations; view toward northwest.
M; 35-14-7_2012-02-07_04	North elevation; view toward south.
M; 35-14-7_2012-02-07_05	Detail, storefront on east elevation; view toward northwest.

Ink and Paper Combination used to create the prints:

**HP Vivera ink on HP Premium Plus Paper**

Brand, Make, and Dye type of the CD-R GOLD:

**Falcon Pro CD-R, CD-R Falcon 24K Gold Archival**



Absolutely FREE Checking  
and Free Slt

UNITED BANK

UNITED BANK

PARKING

M: 35-14-7

Community Paint and Hardware, 7250 Wisconsin Ave.  
Montgomery County, MD

C. Clark

May 2011

MD SHPD

Front and side elevations; view toward southwest.

1/5

M; 35-14-7-2011-05-25-01



M: 35-14-7

Community Paint and Hardware, 7250 Wisconsin Ave.  
Montgomery County, MD

C. Clark

May 2011

MD SHPO

Streetscape view toward southwest

2/5

M; 35-14-7\_2011-05-25\_02



UNITED BANK

UNITED BANK

7250



M: 35-14-7

Community Paint and Hardware, 7250 Wisconsin Ave.  
Montgomery County, MD

S. Traum

February 2012

View of east and south elevations; view toward northwest

3/5

M; 35-14-7-2012-02-07-03

UNITED BANK

UNITED BANK  
ATM

PARKING  
→

P  
PUBLIC  
PARKING



M: 35-14-7

Community Paint and Hardware, 7250 Wisconsin Ave.,  
Montgomery County, MD

S. Traum

February 2012

MD SHPO

North elevation: view toward south

4/5

M: 35-14-7-2012-02-07-04



A black and white photograph of a United Bank branch. The building features a large corner window with white shutters and a dark frame. A sign above the entrance reads "UNITED BANK". The address "7250" is visible on the awning and a small sign near the door. A flower box is mounted on the roofline. The ground is paved with bricks.

UNITED BANK

UNITED BANK

7250

7250

M: 35-14-7

Community Paint and Hardware, 7250 Wisconsin Ave.

Montgomery County, MD

S. Traum

February 2012

MD SHPO

detail, storefront on east elevation; view toward northwest

5/5

M: 35-14-7-2012-02-07-05

M: 35-14-07

c. 1890

Community Paint and Hardware  
7250 Wisconsin Avenue (MD 355)  
Bethesda

Probably the earliest commercial building left standing in the Bethesda Commercial District, and the only surviving structure truly reminiscent of the initial development of the area is Community Paint and Hardware. Thus, its importance to the present business district cannot be disputed. Its architectural detailing, with its decorative bracketed cornice, is reflective of the late Victorian styling which has not been found elsewhere in the district.

This building was originally the 1890s general store and post office of Alfred Wilson. It was Bethesda's only store in 1900 and then contained a post office, grocery counter, dry goods, hardware, and a fuel and feed supply. The building is now covered with stucco which was probably added during the early 20th century when it became a popular means of updating the look of buildings--especially commercial buildings. This, however, does not detract from the authentic appearance of this turn-of-the-century general store.

M:35-14-7

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated October 1986

ACTION TAKEN

The purpose of this amendment is to designate the following sites, located within the Bethesda Central Business District, on the Master Plan.

M: 35/14-1	Montgomery County Farm Women's Cooperative
M: 35/14-2	Madonna of the Trails
M: 35/14-4	Bethesda Theater Complex
M: 35/14-5	Bethesda Post Office
M: 35/14-6	Wilson's Store & Post Office

(On all other notices from M-NCPPC  
Wilson's Store & Post Office is  
M: 35/14-7. This particular notice  
must be in error.)

M:35-14-7

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated December 9, 1985

ACTION TAKEN

Final Draft Amendment.....to designate the following sites,  
located within the Bethesda Central Business District, on the  
Master Plan

M: 35/14-1

M: 35/14-2

M: 35/14-4

M: 35/14-5

M: 35/14-7

Montgomery County Farm Women's Cooperative  
Madonna of the Trails  
Bethesda Theater Complex  
Bethesda Post Office  
Wilson's Store & Post Office  
(Community Paint and Hardware)

M:35-14-7

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated August 23, 1985

ACTION TAKEN

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AMENDMENT TO  
THE MASTER PLAN FOR  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
BETHESDA CBD/MULTIPLE RESOURCE/  
THEMATIC HISTORIC DISTRICT

THURSDAY, September 26, 1985

at  
7:30 P.M.

in the

Montgomery Regional Office Auditorium  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland

The following resource which is also considered part of the district has already been designated on the Master Plan:

The Farm Women's Market #35/14-1  
7155 Wisconsin Avenue (designated 9/79)

to take testimony on whether or not the following historic resource presently listed in the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County should be included in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Bethesda CBD Multiple Resource/Thematic Historic District #35/14 including:

1. Little Tavern #35/14-3  
8100 Wisconsin Avenue
2. Bethesda Theater Complex #35/14-4  
(Cinema 'n Draft House)  
7715-7723 Wisconsin Avenue
3. Bethesda Post Office #35/14-5  
7400 Wisconsin Avenue
4. Brooks Photographers #35/14-6  
7349 Wisconsin Avenue
5. Community Paint & Hardware Store #35/14-7  
7250 Wisconsin Avenue
6. Tudor Style Shopping Complex #35/14-8  
7003-7029 Wisconsin Avenue
7. C&P Telephone Company Building #35/14-9  
6925 Wisconsin Avenue

m:35/14-7

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

RECEIVED

MEMORANDUM

December 9, 1985

DEC 20 1985

MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
TRUST

TO: Richard Ferrara, Director  
Department of Housing and Community Development  
John L. Menke, Director  
Department of Environmental Protection  
✓ J. Rodney Little, Director  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Priscilla Schwab, Chairperson  
Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Melissa C. Banach, Coordinator *MCB*  
Community Planning North

SUBJECT: Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for  
Historic Preservation: Bethesda CBD Historic Sites

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I am pleased to transmit to you this Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

This document contains the recommendation of the Montgomery County Planning Board on the designation of individual sites in the Bethesda CBD.

Should you have any questions concerning this amendment, please do not hesitate to contact Marty Reinhart at 495-4565.

MCB:MR:dws  
Attachment

optional method, it may be appropriate to identify preservation of these additional resources as potential amenities to the project if demonstrated to be in the overall public interest.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Associated Acreage</u>
35/14-5	Bethesda Post Office	7400 Wisconsin Avenue	13,211 sq.ft.

- Constructed in 1938 by the Sofarelli Brothers of Jamaica, New York, this single story, native stone building is neo-colonial in design and features a hipped roof with cupola and arched windows.
- One of a limited number of public buildings in the County constructed under the aegis of the Work Progress Administration (WPA). As a representative example of WPA construction, the building provides a physical link for the County with this important program and period in American history.
- This amendment recognizes that the Post Office, because of its scale, prominent location, and distinctive building material, has emerged as a landmark along Wisconsin Avenue. The site's importance as a public space will be further enhanced with the return of the Bethesda Madonna of the Trails. This amendment therefore designates the site's entire 13,211 sq. ft. parcel as the environmental setting.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Associated Acreage</u>
35/14-7	Wilson's Store & Post Office (Community Paint and Hardware)	7250 Wisconsin Avenue	22,039 sq.ft.

- Circa 1890--Two-story, stucco over clapboard, frame commercial structure with one-story glass enclosed, shed-roofed porch and street-oriented flat facade featuring bracketed, decorative cornice.
- Architecturally the epitome of the turn-of-the-century village store, Wilson's Store and Post Office, known today as Community Paint and Hardware is believed to be the first commercial structure in the CBD and the only remaining vestige of Bethesda 19th century commercial beginnings.

- The site is designated with the entire 22,039 sq. ft. parcel as the environmental setting. In the event of final development approval of the proposed standard method project pending on the site, the historic portion of the building may be relocated and restored, and the environmental setting may be redefined in accordance with the Historic Area Work Permit approved by the County's Historic Preservation Commission on the project.

m: 35-14/7

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20907

(301) 495-4565

RECEIVED

August 23, 1985

AUG 27 1985

MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
TRUST

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties  
FROM: Montgomery County Planning Board Staff  
SUBJECT: Historic District Public Hearing

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Attached is a notice of public hearing on the nomination of a historic district in your area which may be of interest to you. The notice provides the date, time, and location of the public hearing and also provides instructions on how to submit testimony for the record. Should you have any additional questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Marty Reinhart at 495-4565.

MR:ms  
Attachment

M:35-14-7

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Article 28 of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Chapter 24A and Chapter 33A of the Montgomery County Code, the Montgomery County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission hereby gives notice that it will hold a public hearing on the following:

### PRELIMINARY DRAFT AMENDMENT TO

### THE MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION BETHESDA CBD/MULTIPLE RESOURCE/ THEMATIC HISTORIC DISTRICT

THURSDAY, September 26, 1985

at

7:30 P.M.

in the

Montgomery Regional Office Auditorium  
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Silver Spring, Maryland

to take testimony on whether or not the following historic resource presently listed in the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County should be included in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Bethesda CBD Multiple Resource/Thematic Historic District #35/14 including:

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7003-7029 Wisconsin Avenue
7. C&P Telephone Company Building #35/14-9  
6925 Wisconsin Avenue

The following resource which is also considered part of the district has already been designated on the Master Plan:

The Farm Women's Market #35/14-1  
7155 Wisconsin Avenue (designated 9/79)

The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission has reviewed the architectural and historic significance of the Bethesda CBD according to criteria listed in the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.

The Preservation Commission recommends that the properties listed above be designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation as a "multiple resource/thematic" historic district with the individual buildings to be protected under the Historic Preservation Ordinance which provides certain controls regarding alteration, demolition, and maintenance of the property.

If not included in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, these individual properties and the district, as currently delineated in the Locational Atlas, would no longer be subject to the provision of Chapter 24A-10, the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition. The district will, however, remain on the Maryland Historical Trust's Inventory.

The Preliminary Draft Amendment is available for public inspection at The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Regional Headquarters, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow all interested persons to express their views concerning this action. Persons wishing to testify should call 495-4600. If you are unable to attend, write your concerns to the Montgomery County Planning Board at 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20907 and they will be made part of the public hearing record.

*Thomas H. Countee, Jr.*  
Thomas H. Countee, Jr.  
Executive Director

THC:MR:ms